



Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes

April 12, 2022 (4:00 – 6:00) VIA Zoom

Attendees:

Chair – S. Jennings (Partially chaired by L. Bartram)

Co-Chair – S. Hough

Members – C. Paisley, L. Bartram, C. Marks, P. Singh, N. Moss

Council Liaisons – S. Potts, B. Isitt

Staff – A. Galiev, J. Dutton, D. Newman, T. Piwowar

Guests – R. Bayley, D. Willows

Regrets –

1. Call Meeting to Order at 4:10pm

2. Approval of the Agenda*

Moved by L. Bartram

Seconded by C. Paisley

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Minutes from March 2022 Meeting

Moved by L. Bartram

Seconded by S. Hough (via email)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Land Acknowledgement

Done by N. Moss

5. Remarks from the Chair

Suzan and Linda passing on remarks.

6. Business Arising

5a. Presentation from Parks & Facilities – Douglas Street Public Washroom

Staff presentation

Intros from Derrick and Trish

- Showing slide presentation
- Provide committee with overview of Douglas St Washroom Project
- Consult on potential accessibility additions – all feedback will be considered
- Late night task force established Spring 2019 – identify issues and potential improvements – made recommendations for initiatives one of which was addition of public washrooms. Shortage of washrooms available at night in entertainment district.
- Council directed in 2019 – on hold until 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic

- Showing map images on slides – 900 Block Douglas Street context
- Staff reviewed multiple locations – both sides of Douglas Street (Courtney and Broughton Street) - input from various City of Victoria departments. East side was determined as preferred location.
- Proposed location was determined as best for site servicing, location, proximity etc.
- Includes proposed accessible parking stall (shown with yellow line on slide).
- Coordination with project several accessibility additions to intersection: new curb ramp, improve curb ramp, tactile domes, audible signals, on sidewalk bulbs – maintaining appropriate width for pedestrian movement
- Image of “Langley Loo” – proposed will be similar design, is safe and requires minimal maintenance
- Will operate 24/7
- Accessibility Features – image from Esquimalt installed in the last couple of years – improvements have been made to the unit since.
- Accessibility will meet 2020 BC Building Code Accessible Features requirements. Certain features can be augmented based on accordance with barrier-free design.
- Additional items under consideration that aren’t in code: Hand sanitizer location, baby change table, paper towel dispenser.
- Other addition – can provide sink insert on exterior of unit (image in slide) - hand wash faucet, soap dispenser, high contrast signage, brail
- Mounting heights of features meet building code requirements – only when approached by side, not by front
- Conclusion of presentation – next step in discussion. Are there any other accessible design features you’d like us to consider?
- Question period:
 - Linda asking for clarification: as this was put on today’s agenda assumed it was a time sensitive issue – is there a requirement on responding to this?
 - Derrick: Council has approved the proposed location so not reporting back to Council but will take feedback into consideration for the final design. However, the sooner to receive the feedback the better. Ideally information today and if possible, received by the end of the week, if feasible.
 - Christine: mentioned the accessible parking spot. Trish clarified there is currently an accessible stall but doesn’t meet current standards. Christine asked for clarification for vans that have a rear lift. Trish mentioned they can look into it further. Also comment on change table which when it comes down may be a barrier to toilet – may be issue if left down for those with possible dexterity issues. Ask for clarification of location of toilet paper dispenser (located to left adjacent to toilet). Washing station would be inaccessible to a lot of people due to neck injury – turn sideways in a wheelchair, so would like to see some other device or something so that it can be

a front-on entrance (Trish indicates not possible in design).
Christine asks for city to write manufacturer.

- Nate Moss: I think it's a great idea but really inaccessible that it has to go to manufacturer and determine that this model is the best that they have got, and based on the model without any further consideration. A lot of us go with family members and friends that help in washroom and not sure if space is enough for people to navigate in washroom. Even if made it 6' would allow for lift and possibly another person to assist – 5' not enough – would add another foot to be sure.
- Suzan – question: how often is unit cleaned and who cleans it?
Trish: City of Victoria unit so cleaned by staff so cleaned 2x per day as per protocols of other washroom units. Derrick: there is a number to call if service is needed. 2. Is there some type of 911 button in there given that it's in a high risk area? Trish: Not currently but there are louvers that allow for sun/ air in building unit, currently not planned for unit. Can it be installed in unit? Derrick: Really interesting inquiry, question we've had in the past and public safety is a paramount consideration, challenges with unregulated and unsupervised facility. When connected to building it's easy to respond but emergency dial button due to late night crowd is challenged connected to Vic PD – recommendation to go with facility like this with passive features so can call for help and gain access, one of key safety features is a remote lock release (can gain access even when locked from inside). (Note: Suzan excused herself after asking questions).
- Chris: 5' is good standard, most wheelchairs aren't more than 48 inches, seems normal in code. I lived just around corner for 8 years and nice to know the was an option.
- Priyanka: agree with concern with vandalism that other's made.
- Linda: Looked at what was proposed and what was in David Willow's report and tried to incorporate comments. Can't see any of the diagrams that were circulated. Does it swing in or out? (in) Does it have and handle on the inside as well (Trish to look into and confirm). Mentioned toilet back rest – good. Flushing control is where? (Trish: meets building code, just to side of toilet itself). Grab bars are vertical and horizontal? (Trish: can decide grab bars that are). Mentioned contrasting colours which is good. Mentioned in David's report which is really important is some kind of coat hook and/ or shelf – people wearing backpacks and using cane etc. - so really don't want to put them on floor. A lot of people with disabilities have backpacks – wouldn't want to put on floor in public washroom. Ideally hand wash station that is more accessible but regardless should not be an optional feature given what we've been through etc. Buttons that operate sink and dryer? Can operate with close fist (Trish: yes they are). How long does water run for can be an issue if it's only 3 secs for those with dexterity issues? (Trish: can find out). Assuming you have David's report? (Trish: correct)

- Christine: A small ledge near toilet area would be useful. Also, for closing the door a lot of people with disabilities use a cord that's strung on the door – consideration of some type of cord to be hanging from the handle from the inside. Emergency push button – understand there's issues with problems but does concern me that to avoid that problem that we're potentially putting someone with a disability in a bad decision. Rather than saying you can't have some type of emergency button/ voice system – it should be looking at solutions for problematic things. Look at assisting someone who may need it. Clarification on back rest – will be installed.
- Linda: Doesn't necessarily have to connect to police but could be voice or flashing light to notify someone on the outside of the washroom.
- Dave Willows: Committee has done good job in incorporating comments. Concern going forward – make sure it's accurately presented to staff and members of the public – consider trade-offs.
- Linda: asked for what is the report back mechanism? Trish and Derrick will send update which will be sent to AAC for agenda package – when available.

5b. Prioritization Framework – brief presentation from Linda

- Linda presents on prioritization framework to see if it will meet needs moving forward
- Gave things a number from 1-4 when created for AWG
 - 1. Accessibility issue that is either safety/ health related – top priority in terms of time and energy
 - 2. Things that were considered time sensitive – any issue that we heard about last minute. If we don't respond/ comment may be too late to give input.
 - 3. Encompassed most other accessibility issues brought to attention but aren't necessarily urgent (ie: access to heritage building that's not an essential service).
 - 4. Things that come up (administrative/ catch all that doesn't fit into other 3). Sent survey out at beginning of AWG got results and wanted to have results analyzed and didn't happen for a long time – some analysis was done (would come under #4).
- Rating system we had because felt it was necessary due to number of issues
- Proposing system – but open to modification from group.
- Christine question: wondering how this connects to how city categorizes things related to accessibility framework ie: infrastructure etc.
 - Linda: personally don't think it matters what category it falls into.

Motion to adopt Prioritization System:



Motion that we implement this prioritization framework for our meetings going forward and we follow the priorities as laid out in the document.

N. Moss moved motion
Seconded by C. Marks
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5c. Review Accessibility Action Log

J. Dutton and A. Galeiv gave brief description of accessibility log and what was on each tab.

Note: Sandra joined meeting at 5:13pm

Change title from Full list to Full-list Short-term Action Plan

Complete tab:

Missing middle and single use items are complete, change “accessibility in bike lanes” to “mobility devices using bike lanes”, Accessible events and meetings toolkit – understanding were they report back after incorporating feedback – moved back to in progress list, Dallas Rd Accessibility (to do with crossing over on Cook Street – crosswalk and bushes impeding views) - ok stay on list. Accessibility Lens – came to conclusion – ok to stay in list

Active Items:

Inclusion Event: Priority – 4

Honoraria for people with lived experience – 4

Medium- long-term action plan – 4 - subcommittee struck but need clarity on who was on committee (Sandra and Nate) - never met about it (need clarification on what it is – to be reviewed when more detail is given). Staff may need provide more detail but recognize capacities of committee. (To be reviewed by Jenna and Albert)

Communications Protocol – adopted – can be moved into completed

Online engagement challenges – 3 - identified due to issues doing surveys – worked around and can work around list. Note: bring forward survey accessibility in May meeting discussion on website accessibility.

Accessible Parking – 1 -

Beacon Hill Park accessible washrooms and access to road – 1 – Look into whether washroom accessibility is to be addressed

Clover Point – 1 – ongoing issues (not proper ramp curb going down)

Competing rights and interests (equity seeking tool) - 4 – administrative



Government Street Refresh – 1 – Check in minutes when they're reporting back (Jenna to do)

Helping Hands program (assist those who cannot get garbage cans to curb) - 1 - concern with process to get on list. (Issues with complexity of process – Christine asked Linda to clarify where she got information) Linda raised issue as private citizen and gave suggestions. Put on May Agenda – update from staff (grey/ blue bins – can get update from staff).

Public washrooms – 1 – stay on list

Voting – 2 - AWG addressed for previous bi-election and at that time an accessible voting machine was made available – needs to be addressed again but not time sensitive yet – but will be. Put on agenda by July.

Off-leash dog pilot - 1 - City keeps designated new off-leash areas they're called "pilots" not sure if meets definition (short-term trial). Concern for people who want to walk in areas and don't want to encounter (allergic/ nervous/ frightened). Christine – off leash areas also need to be accessible – add as separate line item.

Douglas Street Public Washroom – vs. Public washrooms – need to speak to in more detail next meeting on difference between items.

City Use of Teams for Virtual meetings – 3 - Not necessarily accessible but need clarification on if Teams could be accessible – IT said Teams couldn't be more accessible (but Teams is used for every other committee). Next meeting Agenda for website accessibility – raise there.

Access to heritage buildings – 3 – still ongoing

Pet restrictions in city facilities - 1 - Asking since day 1 of AWG, wanted to be in short-term action plan. Restricts those with serious allergies attending. Note on spreadsheet related to allergies.

Festival Investment Grant Policy and Guidelines - 3 - Requirements aren't robust enough to make festival accessible.

Address rest of list – go on agenda for next meeting – go through other 2 tabs in May meeting (Full – list Short-term Action Plan and Completed Items).

7. New Business

None.

Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items

Tuesday May 10, 2022

1. Accessible Parking
2. Website accessibility



8. Adjourn at 6:07pm

Attachments:

- Minutes from March 8 AAC Meeting
- AWG Prioritization
- Action Log

***NOTE – ANY NEW ADDITIONS TO NEW BUSINESS PORTION OF THE AGENDA MUST BE BROUGHT FORWARD AT THIS TIME (i.e. not at the end of the meeting)**